

Aotearoa Youth Network



Number 13, February 1994

WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 120 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Deadline: 20th July.
Write to AYN at:
c/- The Web Resource Centre
111 Moray Place
Dunedin.

ANC Representative Tours New Zealand

"We have at last achieved our political emancipation" said African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela, moments after his inauguration on May 10 as president of the Republic of South Africa. "We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination."

Millions in South Africa and around the world celebrated the accomplishments of the decades long struggle led by the ANC to rid South Africa of white minority rule. The fruits of this battle mean that today there is a nonracial government in office, a new interim constitution that outlaws racial discrimination and the notorious Bantustans have been reincorporated into South Africa.

The ANC is committed to the establishment of a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic republic in a unitary state.

In New Zealand recently we were fortunate to be able to hear first hand about events in South Africa from ANC representative Ndimiso Ntshinga. He spoke at meetings in Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington. The following is a report of his meetings in Auckland and Hamilton.

Over 90 people came to hear Ntshinga speak in Auckland, May 16. Ntshinga was introduced by former Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves, who was one of 30 New Zealanders to go to South Africa as an international observer in that country's first ever nonracial

elections.

Ntshinga began his remarks by thanking those who had played a role in the anti-apartheid struggle. Commenting on the ANC's election victory he said, "This is the greatest event in the history of South Africa. This victory is as much yours as it is ours as we fought for this democracy together."

Ntshinga added that while apartheid has ended the struggle is by no means over. In fact the most difficult period lies ahead. Millions need jobs, homes, schools, medical care, electricity, sanitation and land. These problems that were created by apartheid now have to be tackled so that "we can create a South Africa which offers prosperity and security for all".

The ANC program, the Freedom Charter, which was drawn up by some 3,000 delegates at Kliptown in 1955, embodies the democratic demands of the revolution. It is the document on which the ANC based its election platform.

Chief among the immediate demands the ANC says it will fight to implement in leading the new government are building 1 million homes in the next 5 years, a national public works program to employ 2.5 million people over the next 10 years, providing electrification to 2.5 million rural and urban homes, beginning a land reform, and ending the violence that is plaguing the country.

To fund this program Ntshinga explained that millions of dollars

used for security and covert operations to maintain apartheid can now be freed up to provide for the peoples' needs.

Today, he said, it was just as important as ever for the international community to continue their solidarity so that the tasks of the democratic revolution can be completed. "If South Africa were to disappear from the political agenda of the world we believe it will be more difficult to deal with the problems we face."

Ntshinga's introduction was followed by a wide-ranging discussion. Responding to a question on the demand of the ultra-right for a white homeland he said that there is no viable area that is exclusively white in South Africa and the ANC would never allow forced removals.

Another question criticised the ANC for making too many concessions to the former apartheid regime. Ntshinga explained that the ANC "gave concessions when necessary" and only when they did not violate fundamental principles.

Another participant in the meeting asked how the ANC planned to redistribute land. Until recently Blacks had not been legally entitled to own land under apartheid. Ntshinga explained that the ANC is setting up land claim courts to deal with the many cases of those who lost land through forced removals under apartheid.

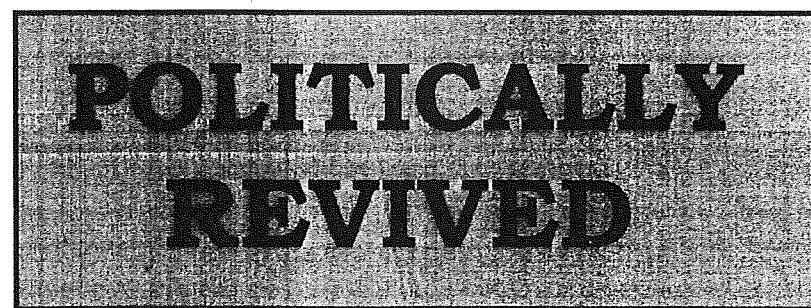
Following his visit to Auckland, Ntshinga also spent a day in Hamilton.

After a historical presentation by members of the local Maori tribe - the Tainui; and a lunchtime reception with the Mayor and Councillors. he addressed a meeting of 35 people at Waikato University, hosted and organised by the University Chaplain, Rev. Lindsay Cumberpatch.

"I have shared in the joy of my neighbours' victory", explained a young woman from Botswana, one of several African students who attended. Another, a student from Malawi who described himself as an ANC sympathiser, queried how the ANC government was going to satisfy peoples' needs rapidly.

Responding to a question on Cuba, Ntshinga said, "There are people who we can identify with in struggle... Castro was there at our hour of need, when no western country would touch the ANC. Now when it is fashionable to say "Viva ANC" will we turn our backs on them? No it would be highly immoral, politically immoral".

• Ruth Gray.



A large Massey contingent attended the 1994 Peace Workshops held last weekend on Tapu Te Ranga marae in Wellington. Here is a smattering of some of the workshops and our reactions to them.

ELECTRONIC NETWORKING

Electronic networking has been touted by some as the new panacea for communications and networking. It was developed by the US military to disperse away from an easily targetable, singular central communications base. Each computer system is connected to number of other systems and so on. Thus all the information is dispersed throughout the world. The system is cheap, immediate and therefore extremely powerful. The real beauty of this setup is that you can have one-to-many contact(s). This makes information sharing amongst groups very easy. Because of the vast numbers of people who have access to this system, there is an enormous body of information out

there in cyberspace (computer-geek talk). One of the real problems with this technology is that there is a restricted number of people who have access to it. Hopefully things like public access terminals will slowly help to alleviate this. A new network called PLANET is of particular interest to the New Zealand Peace Movement, as it focuses on environmental, peace and social justice type issues. Austen.

NEW ZEALAND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

Nicky Hagar facilitated a talk on the role of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). The GCSB is part of the global spy network, working mainly in the interests of overseas powers. Peace activist Nicky Hagar is publishing a book exposing our continuing ties with USA military intelligence network. It was interesting to note that now the cold war is over, these bases (at Tangimoana and Waihopai) are used for economic purposes. It was remarked that we may be military allies of the USA but we are

definitely not economic allies! Therefore, a lot of information that we send to the US can be used against us. Steven.

DESIGNING AND PRINTING

In this workshop we discussed a range of topics based on the idea of producing pamphlets, flyers and posters. Jo Buchanan and Ross Gardener (workshop facilitators) both worked on the Peacelink magazine in the typesetting area, and used this knowledge to teach us about

bombing
screen-
ing
and
other
op-
tions
in the
print-
ing
area.
Due to
the
mildly
cha-
otic
or-
ganisa-
tion
I felt
we did

not cover as much as possible but I enjoyed the workshop anyway.

Antoinette.

ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO THE LAW

In order to clarify my rights in a protest situation I went to Lisa Tortell's workshop on the law. Here are three things any activist should know:

1) Our rights when not arrested:

- you must give the police your name, address, and date-of-birth whenever you are asked.
- you can't be searched unless they have a search warrant or

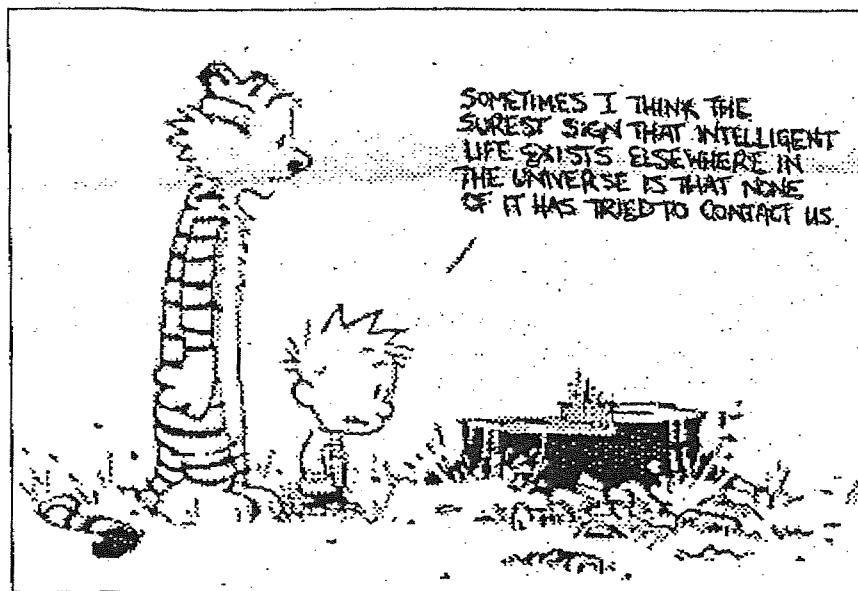
your consent. Silence is taken as consent so make sure you say NO!

2) Our rights when arrested:

- we don't have to speak
- we have a right to a lawyer and the police must tell us this
- we have a right to have the charges explained in full, even in writing if necessary
- we have a right to appear in court as soon as possible and convenient

3) "Breach of the Peace":

- you can be arrested for Breach of the Peace (BOP) or even for anticipated BOP
- **HOWEVER** you can't be



charged in court but because it is an arrest you can be detained and searched

- if you resist the BOP the police can get you for obstruction of justice. Thankfully, they have to prove the BOP first.

Jamie.

PANEL DISCUSSION- MEDIA

The panel discussion on the role of the media was great, interesting, lively and relevant to what we are doing at Massey. Sam Fisher talked about how to put together effective press releases, Jeremy (?) spoke about his involvement in City Voice (A Wellington progressive newspa-

per), Victoria Quade about community radio and Michael Kopp about the media in general. All the speakers were really articulate and informative, if a tad overbearing at times, and some heated discussion followed their speeches. Carolyn.

OPPOSING THE EMBARGO ON CUBA

Cuba has been one of the political hotspots for the last 30 years. It is one of the last remaining countries with a socialist system and was hit

heavily by the collapse of the Soviet Block. Against the policy of the United Nations, the USA have placed a trade embargo on Cuba. This is part of the USA's continued fight against communism. The socialist system in Cuba has the support of the Cuban people. The USA's embargo is causing much pain and suffering to the

people of Cuba. I feel that if a society makes a choice for socialism and is happy with it, then the USA should accept this and cease their meddling in other peoples' affairs.

Justin.

FREE TIME (THANK GOD)

Lots of balls, lots of exertion and lots of fun. It's quite exhausting really. You have to work really hard to keep them up and once you've lost the rhythm you've had it. Some find it very hard to stay still so they do it against the wall. It can become quite an

addiction! In fact we enjoyed it so much we've already booked in for the next juggling workshop.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

In 1989 Sri Lankan lawyers were trying to obtain the release of people detained without trial. These lawyers were being killed or kidnapped in retaliation. The Sri Lankan Bar Association asked peace Brigades International to provide non-violent escorts. Volunteers dressed as tourists accompanied the targets both out on the streets and on visits to police stations. Peace Brigade members used only their presence to deter violent attacks. This programme continues. New Zealand volunteers need to have a commitment to non-violence, to be able to live with stress, and to have huge experience of living or traveling in another culture - they also need to be over 25. The only guarantee of safety for Peace Brigade workers is the Emergency Response network - a group of people all over the world who, when notified of an emergency send faxes or letters to the local authorities.

Andrew.

SUSTAINING ACTIVISM

The workshop on sustaining activism was run by Nicky Hagar. This workshops had a few major themes: Firstly, peace activism is not renowned for its financial affluence. Whatever principles may be at stake, activists still have to eat. Don't feel guilty for taking time out to work for money, or asking for money to supplement income. Secondly, even the most passionate activists burn out. It is really important that we create our own support networks who may be able to lend an ear, a hand, or a shoulder when necessary. Take a break, balance your activities - make sure you look after yourself and realise your

own limitations. The world will still need saving next week! Finally, network. Use the resources that are already available, work with old-timer activists, they are a goldmine of information. Don't bang your head against brick walls doing research that has already been done. If we look after each other we can maintain a workable cohesion and the bastards won't grind us down!

Anna.

These were but a few of the thought-provoking workshops. There are so many issues and so many levels of

involvement in the New Zealand Peace Movement. I know you are all incredibly busy but going to a weekend like this is a true inspiration. We all have a part to play in the progressive movement and by God we have a lot to do!! If you have any queries on any of these items contact the Massey Peace Club.

- Austin Ganley, Carmel Gillman, Justin Cowan, Jenny and Steven Collett, Anna Fenwick, Andrew Shadrake, Carolyn Hicks, Antoinette Tanguay, Jamie Bichan.

SUPPORT FOR THE SEAFARERS

At the Student General Meeting of the Otago University Students Association on the 8th of June Otago University students threw their support behind the soon to be locked out seafarers in the Cook Straight Ferry dispute.

Two motions were put before the student body, the first a motion condemning the "union busting actions" of New Zealand Rail and declaring opposition to the Employment Contracts Act and the second pledging a minimum of \$200 toward the seafarers in their campaign.

The Mover of the motions, Mr. Laurie Rhodes, addressed the meeting with his concerns that New Zealand Rail was using large amounts of money to portray a "very misleading" view of the situation with their use of full page advertisements in Major Newspapers. "The wages and conditions that these people work under are not as wonderful as NZ Rail claims" he said and highlighted that the crews of the

Inter-islanders were working 17 hours a day, seven days in a row every three weeks, which is the same as working 3 forty hour weeks in seven days.

The President of OUSA, Mr. Adrian Reeve commented that he had been impressed with the support that the students had received from the unions in the fight over increasing University Fees and was pleased that the students had decided to support the seafarers. "I feel that this shows how students are concerned with many issues in the community, not just the issues that directly affect them", he said and indicated that there is a growing feeling that ordinary New Zealanders are not prepared to be "walked over" by big business any more.

CONGRADULATIONS TO THE SEAFARERS FOR THEIR SETTLEMENT WITH WISCONSIN/NZ RAIL. THE SUPPORT IS STILL THERE IF YOU NEED IT AGAIN.

STUDENT GREENS PROTEST

at CLYDE OPENING

On April 23rd the Clyde Dam was officially opened, seventeen years after the first earthworks commenced. Although it would have been more appropriate to mark the occasion with a wake, Electricorp instead decided to hold a full-scale celebration, with Jim Bolger, Bill Burch and 460 other invited guests being flown in for the party. This decision highlighted the fact that the 'Think Big' mentality which led to the ugly monolith at Clyde is still strong in the minds of those that control our energy supply - a fact made even more obvious by current plans to repeat the mistakes of Clyde all over again with a 350 MW hydro dam on the Lower Clutha, near Beaumont.

However, at the opening none of this went unchallenged. While the official guests gathered at the power station bellow the dam, 120 protesters gathered at the lookout above. Present

were members of the Otago Student Green Movement, Otago Education Action Group, Canterbury University Environment Council, Friends of

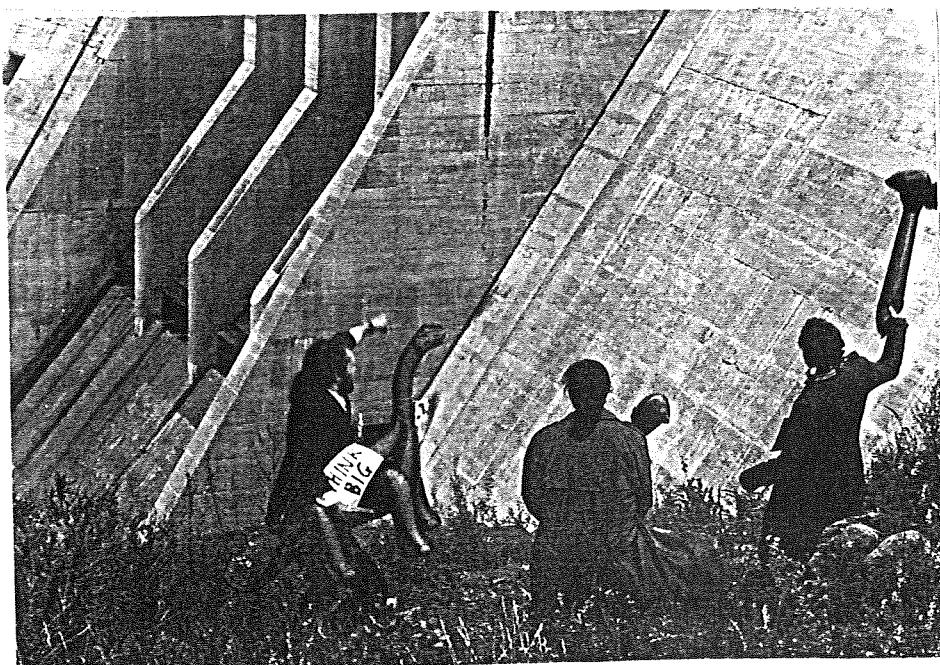
Beaumont, and anarchists from Christchurch. Many of us held placards in the shapes of white elephants, bearing slogans such as "Celebrated a fiasco lately?" and "No more wet dreams on the Clutha". As the speeches began below, so did our chants. Our initial concerns that we were too far away to be heard vanished as the dam wall provided such a thunderous echo that Jim and the other gibbering fools were virtually drowned out. (At least the dam is useful for something!) The chants continued for over half an hour, until the speeches ended, and the sluice gates were opened. We greeted the last act with a resounding "boooooo!!".

Next we held a ceremony of our own on the dam. The loss of the once mighty river was marked with suitably solemn words, after which flowers were thrown into the now lifeless, still waters of Lake Dunstan.

At Olivers Restaurant in Clyde, a lavish banquet was laid on for the official guests, which included such national heroes as Peter Shirtcliffe, valiant defender of democracy. If they thought they were going to be able to eat their smoked mussels and drink their expensive wine in peace, they were wrong. Our chants of "Don't dam Beaumont", and "One, two, three-and-a-bit, Electricorp are full of shit" were continued relentlessly throughout lunch. (In a much appreciated gesture, the owner of Olivers brought several trays of food out to the protesters.)

After they had stuffed themselves at out expense, Robin Gray, MP for Clutha, and Warren Cooper, MP for Otago, chose to grace us with their munificent presence. However, this turned out to be a total waste of time: the statements they came out with led one

protester to ask whether this was the comedy hour. At one point Gray stated that with energy efficiency, the most we



The "Great Dinasaur" itself - the Student Greens Challenge "Think Big"

could save was 1% of what we now use, when even one of Electricorp's own reports showed we could save over 50% cost effectively! It's quite scary that people as badly advised as this are running the country.

From our point of view, the day went extremely well. Media coverage was very good, with items on TV3 and TVNZ news, interviews on the radio, and extensive coverage in the daily

newspapers. The later even considered the energy efficiency issue. Above all, the national campaign against a dam near Beaumont was given just the kick-start it needed.

• Ray Webster.

What the Todd Taskforce Could Mean For You

In the first week of the May holidays, in a cunning move designed to catch students at their most fragmented and apathetic, the report of the Todd Taskforce was released. This report was the product of many moons of soul-searching by the Taskforce, in an attempt to find new and more creative ways to justify making students pay more for their education. The Todd Taskforce was made up of ten people: two were student representatives, two were women, one was Maaori and seven were rich white men. Jeff Todd, the Grand Poobah, made frequent comments about how the report reflected the views of the community, the people, etc. Whose community was he talking about? Not mine.

The Todd Report spouts lots of fuzzy stuff about education being a lovely thing that everyone should be able to have (lending as it does to an enhanced appreciation of art), and some other wee gems about means-testing the dole and making students take out life insurance in case they die before paying back their loans, but basically what it comes down to is that there were sort of three options put forward. I say sort of because despite having months

and thousands to make up their minds with, the Taskforce could reconcile themselves into no less than five camps. Two camps supported Option A (but in different ways), two camps supported Option B (but in different ways), and the two student representatives would not support either, opting instead for no fee increases.

Option A of the Report is for those who believe that everything is pretty much hunky dory at the moment, but if the government paid a bit less (i.e. we pay more) it would be even better. It therefore recommends that students pay 25% of their course costs.

Option B says that there should be more Maaori and low-income people in tertiary education, and therefore we should all pay 50% of our course costs. If this confuses you a tad, think of it as everyone paying for their education through loans, then repaying their MASSIVE debts when they get jobs. Everyone repays their loans proportionate to their income, and those who can repay those who can't.

Option C (the students option) isn't actually considered a viable option at all. Sorry.

Both options recommend "modi-

fication and expansion" of the student loans scheme, which is crucial to their recommendations. Obviously if everyone had to pay thousands of dollars up front to study, no one would be able to do it, and at some point the Taskforce has dimly recognised that this would be bad. So, everyone gets to pretend they are playing with play money by taking out a loan. "Hey guys, let's give all these 18-year-olds just out of school the opportunity to get \$30,000 in debt!" "Okay!" Great idea. Well done. Consider this:

An average three-year degree costs around \$30,000 to finance. A graduate with a \$30,000 loan would need to earn \$35,000 per year just to keep up with the interest repayments.

To pay it off in ten years would require payments of \$160 a fortnight.

To pay it off in fifteen years would require payments of \$124 a fortnight.

On an average graduate income, it would take more than twenty years to repay ... possibly a lifetime. Are you scared yet?

Well I am. If you want to do a

basic three-year degree, have parents who are rich but mean or just don't want to rely on Mummy and Daddy until you're 25, and have no other source of income, you need to live off a loan and it will cost you many thousands of dollars. When/if you graduate and get a job, you'll have to start paying this back and it will take you YEARS AND YEARS. If you are lucky it will only take you a decade or so and you can start to think about houses and families and stuff by your mid-thirties. If you're not lucky, in other words if you earn less than \$30-odd thousand a year, in other words if you're average, you won't pay it back ever. You'll keep trying, you'll pay 10% of your income above \$13,520 every year, but it will all go towards the 7.2% interest and your actual loan principal will stay as it is FOREVER.

And that is just a basic degree at current fees. If Todd's Option B is implemented, to do a professional degree like Vet, Medicine or Dentistry could cost you upwards of \$100,000. To pay this back, no, just to keep up with the interest on it, you'd need to earn \$90,000 a year!! Sound reasonable to you?? (No prizes for guessing how this will effect the price of the professional services). This is meant to increase Maaori and low-income earners' involvement in tertiary education? Get real.

The loans system itself is actually discriminatory against the people the Todd Taskforce are supposedly trying to include in education. Maaori, low-income earners, older students and women are far more reluctant to take out loans than the more privileged: maybe because they feel a teeny bit apprehensive at the thought of spending their entire working lives trying to pay back an insurmountable loan? Could be.

The loans system is intended to

ensure that those who benefit from their education pay for it, and those who don't benefit (i.e. by getting a high-paying job), don't "have to" pay the full amount. But it doesn't. The repayment threshold of \$13,520 per year is not an income at which I would feel I was benefiting from years of study. Nor would I feel I was getting a fair deal by "not having to" pay back my loan, when in reality the situation would be that I was not able to pay it back, although inland Revenue would take chunks out of my meagre pay anyway. Condemning people to a lifetime of debt is the Todd

Taskforce's idea of increasing access to education. Personally, I think that's kind of stupid. The Todd Report is an important step on the way to privatisation of education. New Zealand already has the third-highest tertiary fees in the OECD countries, but with basically none of the support other countries offer to students. There are more options to be considered here than just "shall we charge students more, or lots more?". Let's show that we won't put up with this shit. Get involved with your local Education Action Group on campus or get in touch with your local AYN contact.

• Carolyn Hicks.

Dunedin Update

The last month has again seen thousands march the streets of Dunedin in opposition to user pays in education.

Sparked off by the fee increase proposals of the Todd Taskforce, approximately three thousand university and polytech students gathered on May 26th and marched down the city's main street in a loud and boisterous procession that stunned shoppers and startled police. From experience in Dunedin over the last year, the police have realised the level of emotion that students hold towards the prospect of even higher tuition charges, and, as a result large numbers of police arrived at the university to provide an "escort" to wherever the students were planning to go.

The "old faithful" protest venue of the National Party headquarters was placed under police guard and long batons were

stored in a nearby hairdresser shop in the event of conflict.

No conflict took place but the march deliberately surrounded the main entrance to the headquarters, and although no students could get in, they were determined that the National Party would at least hear what they thought about their controversial proposals.

Dozens of students wrote messages for Lockwood (some of them not very nice) on paper and on the ground, until OUSA executive member Chris Tozer, to the glee of the crowd produced a cellular phone and called the besieged minister amidst a torrent of claps and shouting. (The "quizmaster" later called the president of the students' association with an apparent willingness to concede on a number student demands, but, as yet nobody is holding their breathe!!!)

International News

The procession continued noisily, snaking around the city's retail district on a path that brought traffic to a standstill around the Octagon, courthouse and the one-way system before heading back to the university.

The police, although not overjoyed at having to attend yet another protest, thanked the student leaders through the local newspaper and attributed the peaceful nature of the march to their efforts.

Although marches tend to be the domain of tertiary students in Dunedin, the first week of June saw the community involved in the battle over user pays.

Nearly 500 Dunedin people braved the wintry cold and turned out to a community rally, held in the Octagon, to show their opposition to the Todd Report. University staff and speakers from the local unions, churches and political parties addressed the crowd of secondary students, parents and toddlers..., not to mention the escort of two dozen police. We would all like to have seen more in attendance but the reality is that over the last ten years the community has become shell-shocked by the policies of the respective parties and only now are beginning to believe that they can ever influence "their" government. As long as people are feeling empowered, feeling as though their opinions count and their actions matter, we are winning the battle for real democracy, which is a long process, but a process well underway in the deep south.

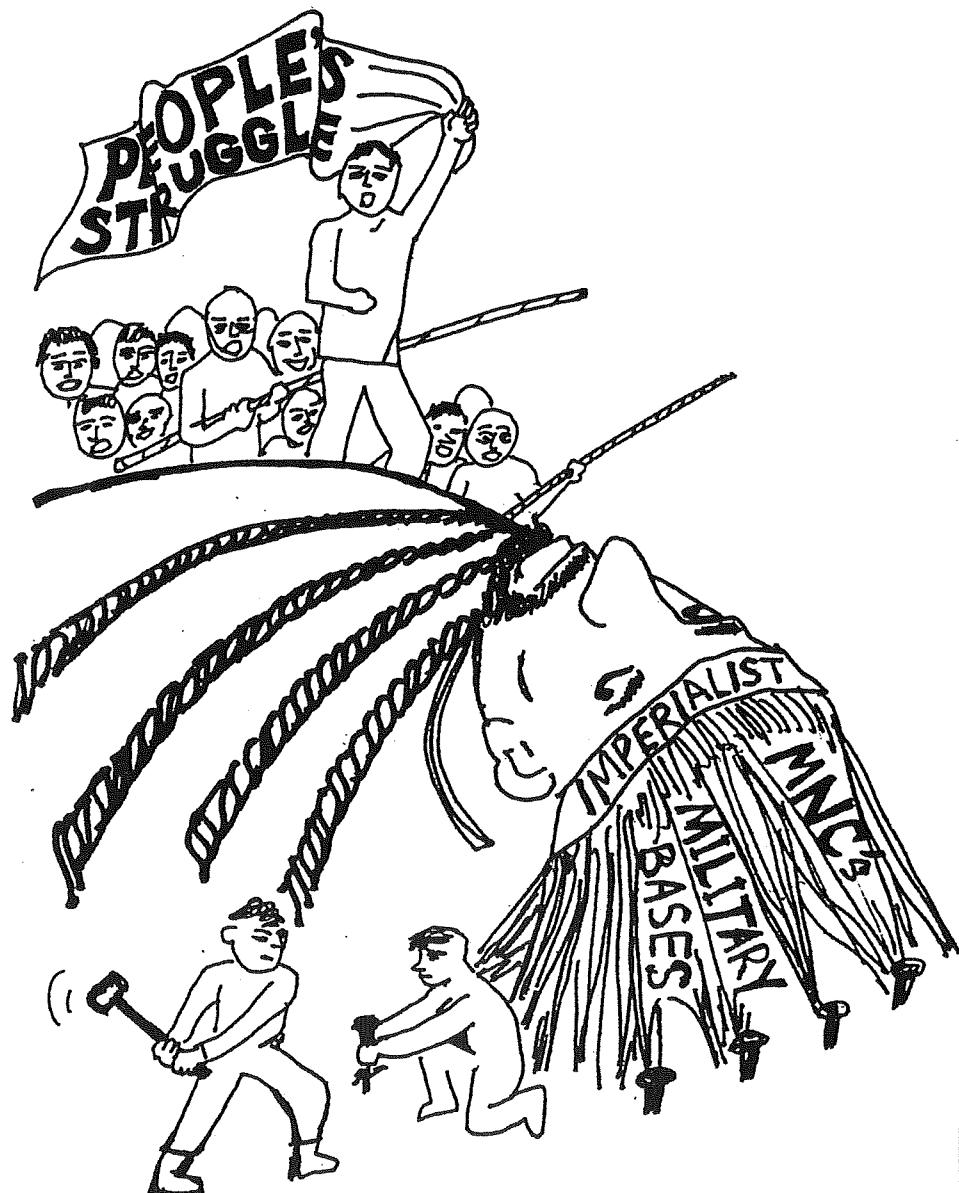
• Laurie Rhodes.

BATTLE CRY AGAINST IMPERIALISM - ASA Update.

More than 250 students and youth activists from 17 students and youth organisations in South Asia came together in ASA's South Asian Students' and Youth Festival held from 10 - 15th May in New Delhi, India. The Festival was focused on building students' resistance against imperialism, communalism, jingoism (war mongering by the ruling government).

The festival was inaugurated by different political leaders from South Asia and a number of student and youth activists from each participating organisation in the festival.

The festival featured a 4-day political session that analysed the different elements of South Asian societies and outlined the challenges posed by communal and fundamental forces in the sub-region. The festival identified General Agreement on



Trades and Tariffs (GATT) recent agreements and the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as the natural progression of the IMF-WB-imposed economic liberalisation policy, and that these institutions have become important tools of the First World in controlling the economies and resources of Third World countries.

The discussions also emphasised that in South Asia, increasing imperialist domination, communalism-fundamentalism, Indian hegemony and war hysteria created by the ruling classes are the greatest obstacles to the unity of the South Asian peoples.

The session on militarism, Indian hegemony and the South Asian solidarity reached the conclusion that Indian ruling elite's "big brother" attitude toward neighbouring countries have created numbers of problems in the region. No other country in the world since India's independence in 1947 until present time has had as many military aggressions to other countries as India has had in that period. The increased militarisation in South Asia is a legacy of this Indian hegemony, nowhere so tense is it today at the Indian-Pakistan border which has already seen three wars. It also prevented the attendance of the Pakistan delegation to the festival, despite much lobbying by the Indian students, and delayed the arrival of some of the Bangladeshi students.

Two sessions were devoted to women's issues in South Asia. issues such as increasing incidents of child rape, trafficking and child marriage that have to be urgently challenged in the society by the student movement. Social backwardness, a strong patriarchal system and rising fundamentalist hysteria were identified as some of the main obstacles in ensuring women's full participation in

society. The discussions revealed the unfulfilled potential of the youth and students in carrying forward the struggle for women's empowerment. The youth and students need to address these problems within their organisations as the first step to tackling the issue in South Asia. The ideas of gender sensitivity, affirmative action and the need to encompass the Third World feminist perspective were some steps that organisations need to adopt and integrate in their overall political programme.

The festival also devoted time to the issue of Bhutan where due to massive repression by the dictatorial King Jingme regime, thousands of Bhutanese people were compelled to leave their own country and seek refuge in Nepal and India. The festival resolved to observe December 17th as "Day of Bhutan" to focus on the issues of democracy and human rights in Bhutan.

The concluding session of the festival tackled the need of forming the "Student' SAARC" (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) which would try to organise a similar festival every year and build up stronger solidarity amongst people of South Asia.

The festival also agreed to join in the Asia-wide weeklong campaign against IMF-WB (2-8 July, 1994). Similarly, South Asian students will observe December 6th as "Anti-communalism and Fundamentalism Day" in the region.

While the festival had a political theme it also became a forum where different cultures of South Asia were shared. There never were quiet moments, as in-between speeches, debated and small group discussions there were always spontaneous cultural performances - songs, dances, drama and poetry. These spontaneous cultural numbers further enhanced the unity amongst the participants.

Poetry

I like to think of Harriet Tubman
Harriet Tubman who carried a revolver,
who had a scar on her head
from a rock thrown by a slave-
master (because she talked
back), and who
had a ransom on her head
of thousands of dollars and who
had no use for the law
when the law was wrong,
who defied the law. I like
to think of her.
I like to think of her
when I think of the problem of
feeding the children.

The legal answer
to the problem of feeding the
children
is ten free lunches every month,
being equal, in the child's real
life,
to eating lunches every other
day.
Monday but not Tuesday.
I like to think of the President
eating lunch on Monday, but not
Tuesday.
And when I think of the Presi-
dent
and the law, and the problem of
feeding the children, I like to
think of Harriet Tubman
and her revolver.

And then sometimes
I think of the President
and other men,
men who practice the law,
men who revere the law,
who make the law
who enforce the law
who live behind
and operate through
and feed themselves
at the expense of
starving children
because of the law,
men who sit in paneled offices
and think about vacations
and tell women
whose care it is

Continued

not to be hysterical as in the word hysterikos, the Greek for womb suffering, not to suffer in their wombs, not to care, not to bother the men because they want to think of other things and do not want to take the women seriously. I want them to think about Harriet Tubman, and remember, remember she was beat by a white man and she lived and she lived to redress her grievances and she lived in swamps and wore the clothes of a man bringing hundreds of fugitives from slavery, and never was caught, and led an army, and won a battle, and defied the laws because the laws were wrong, I want men to take us seriously. I am tired of wanting them to think about the rights and wrongs. I want them to fear. I want them to feel fear now as I have felt suffering in the womb, and and I want them to know that there is always a time there is always a time to make right what is wrong, there is always a time for retribution and that time is beginning.

Susan Griffin

LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

Since 1993, an increasing number of students have been arrested after taking part in political protests. The legal costs arising from these arrests are considerable, even when charges are dropped or unproven.

We need your help to cover these expenses.

Any donations that you can make would be appreciated and, if you wish, acknowledged.

Please send donations to the Aotearoa Youth Network, 111 Moray Place, Dunedin. Phone AYN at 03 4730684 for more information.



Letters to the Network

Dear Ed,

I write in reply to the ill informed article, 'Hebron is one of the many others' by ASA, (March 1994, No. 11). In the closing paragraph by ASA, they state "...an occupied people, crying for justice, struggling to have their homeland back."

I question the knowledge of ASA on this "homeland" subject, and whether they are aware that Israel was Israel long before it was Palestine. The Jewish people lived in the Holyland up to the exile in 135 AD, when the Roman Emperor Hadrian designated Jerusalem a Roman colony, in which Jews were forbidden to enter and in a further attempt to blot out the Jewish identity, the land known as Judah (one of the two kingdoms formed from ancient Israel after the death of King Solomon in 926 BC) was renamed Palestine. Palestine obtained it's Arab roots through a series of Islamic-Arab occupations of the territory from 638 AD to 1517, where it was conquered by and remained under the oppression of the Ottoman empire for the next 400 years.

However, I will not deny that 31 years of British and French trickery, treachery and broken promises, along with input from the Zionists treated the Arabs as backward and inferior Orientals up until the end of the British Mandate of 1948 when the official state of Israel was declared by the Jewish National Provincial Council at Tel Aviv.

Furthermore, I agree with ASA

that there should be tighter control on Jewish people if peace is to become more than an illusion in Israel. But I feel ASA has failed to point out the other side of the argument- there are just as many attacks on Jewish people by fanatical Arab groups as those on Arabs by Jewish. The Jewish have been persecuted throughout history- from their enslavement in Ancient Egypt, the Babylonian conquest of 675 BC, the declaration by the Hellenistic Ptolemy in 168 BC, the annexation by the Roman empire in 63 BC followed 198 years later by the exile. The most modern Jewish persecution being the holocaust, from the early 1930s to 1945.

Jews have a right to exist in what has always been their homeland - Israel. However, Israel must be integrated with Palestine to recognise the existence of the Arab people who have lived there for thousands of generations.

• Stefan Fairweather.

To Any ARM Members in Christchurch,

Could you please say "Hi" to Simon D. and say sorry I missed him at the demo.

• From Mark.

P.S. Don't be a stranger.

Dear Ed.,

It has quickly become apparent this year that September 28th (the police riot at Registry) marked a turning point in the world of protest. In 20 short minutes the stakes were permanently raised. Now it seems that the police are much more willing to use force to silence dissident voice. We've all heard that the army are training 1200 cops at Trentham in preparation for the ferry lockout. And now we hear that the Police have applied to Government for extra funding to purchase riot gear and train the cops to use it. The reason? The seafarers and the students.

After their appalling display at Registry last year I wonder why the Police need more riot gear for more training in aggression. Maybe we are beginning to look as though we can mobilise real opposition to Government policy. In the build up to MMP, politicians are suddenly very conscious of the precarious nature of their positions. Everyone wants to present themselves and their party in the best possible light and having tens of thousands of people protesting almost weekly against your policies is not conducive to a good public image.

They tried to ridicule us, to white wash us, to hold us up as greedy little rich kids who don't know how good we've got it. But we haven't gone away, and, more worrying from the government's point of view, non-students are starting to join us. They are running scared - Cabinet is demanding Lockwood do some-

thing about the students. That "something" it seems could come in the form of an attempt to silence our criticism through legalised violence, i.e., the Police.

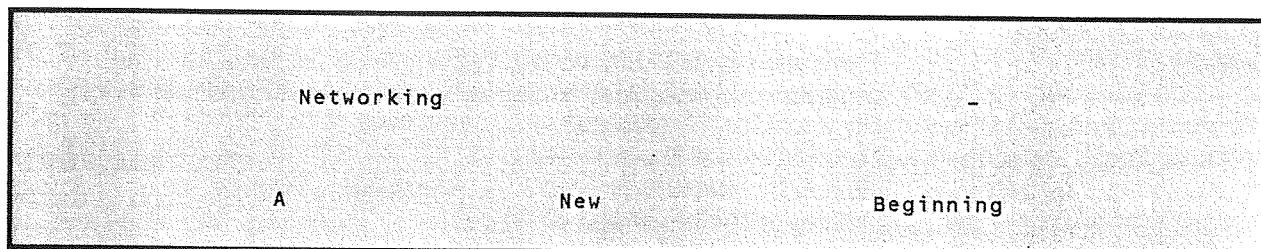
In a strange, macabre way this gives me renewed hope. If the Government are so concerned about us we must be having an impact.

• A.W.



The AYN Workshop at the National Peace Workshops.

Waiting For Your Response...



AYN Workshop

AYNers and supporters gathered in a mattressed and cosy whare at Te Tapu te Ranga marae during the National Peace Workshops in Wellington, June 5th and discussed the newsletter and other issues.

"Positive vibe" aspects of the newsletter from dedicated subscribers were

- Lack of editorial control was **MOST IMPORTANT**
- Liked the monthly aspect of it
- Has a broad range of youth/political issues in it which don't get written up or debated

elsewhere

- Mentions events coming up
- Alternative perspective is valuable
- Great to be reading about what other young people are doing.

NETWORKING ROLE OF THE NEWSLETTER:

This was discussed in depth with suggestions of calling the newsletter the "AYN Magazine" to imply that it is a magazine as well as a networking tool. What do you, the subscriber, think of that aye?

The initial network that came from the Peace, Power and Politics conference is still working, which is credit to the newsletter but the networking process of the magazine needs to be revitalised so that new people are not excluded and know how to be involved in the different issues and groups around the country.

It was a pity that we had not read the article on Networking in Issue 12 before the meeting as many of the issues could have been discussed. However one of the main outcomes was if you read this newsletter you should

also consider writing articles about events coming up and what has already happened - after all networking is a two way thing.

Also, AYN is the name of the newsletter and the network. After discussion it was decided that the name could not be used for demonstrations, or on posters, etc., because it represents a network not a specific group. The group organising the demo, for example, should use their own name.

It is also important that the newsletter is not identified as just for students, a concern raised if the network is to constantly use Student Association addresses etc., but it in fact represents youth, unemployed, paid and unpaid workers and students.

One stumbling block to getting this two-way communication going from the regions going back to Dunedin has been the lack of development of regional contacts.

Regional Contacts for Aotearoa Youth Network

The contact lists are one of the prime networking tools that comes out of the newsletter. Confidentiality of peoples names and the list per se resulted in a decision being made that the whole updated list of people would only be sent to the regional contact person (or persons). It is YOUR responsibility to ring them and find out who else is around in your area or contacts for other groups.

Updating and getting a commitment from contacts in cities and regions that we already know about is a priority. It was decided that it was better to have no contact than one that is not acting as a contact.

The contact person could be 2 - 4 people, or just one person with a group of workers around them to help with work and offer support. The contacts would act as reporters, contacting people and filing reports from their region back to Dunedin (if people hadn't already written in) and keeping the network oiled in their regions.

To be a contact person is not a big job but COMMITMENT is the most important thing and having a support group to share the work.

Contacts could organise potluck dinners or video evenings for the AYN local network - a chance to get out of your own group and meet other AYNers. They could all offer skill sharing or training sessions at a local or regional level. Dunedin has information on this if anyone is keen to do it.

However, it is ultimately the responsibility of everyone to play a part in the networking element of the newsletter.

There was also an idea that the contact point is revolving every say 6 months. That is up to each region and Dunedin would need to be informed so addresses on the newsletter could be changed.

Sooo - if you want to play a more active role - contact the person in your area listed in this newsletter and offer your support. If there is no one then this could be the opportunity you have been waiting for! Contact AYN in Dunedin and say that you are really keen and it could be all yours.

Increasing membership was also discussed. In Nelson, one person photocopies the newsletter at work and then leaves copies at cafes and clinics. If you do sell individual copies, at the price of \$1.50, then it is imperative that you send the

money back to AYN in Dunedin. Cybele is in the process of getting an E Mail address to make the information sharing process a little bit easier for some of you.

So don't just sit there and read this article - think about what you are going to write back. It could be that demo you did last week, it could be an offer to write a centre spread on an issue that you are working on and the contact groups around the country, send in those photos from the newspaper or even a copy of your local newsletter with the highlighted article or bits and pieces you feel the network would appreciate hearing about. The end result will be a larger What's On list, fuller regional reports and more articles.

And remember the deadline for each month is the 15th (or the 20th at the very latest!!).

Finally a big THANK YOU to Cybele and the co-operative down in Dunedin for all their hard work. I trust the overwhelming positivity from the workshop made you realise it is all worth it!!

• **Melanie Hutton.**

DEAR AYNers,

All of the issues discussed above about networking in the magazine are open for discussion. This is your network and if you would like it to work more effectively, please write in with your perspectives. Everything that needs to be decided about in terms of networking, the responsibilities of the editorial collective and regional contacts will be put forward in this magazine. It is up to you to comment!! Luv Ed.

Regional Contacts

Auckland:

David Flemming
33 Birdwood Cres.
Parnell

Hamilton:

Dale Frew
PO Box 9578
Ph: 824-4480
(With support of others -
Eddie? Stef?)

Napier:

Ivan Tabor
32 Plunket St.
Ph: 844-4603
(If anyone else from Napier is
keen to be a contact please
contact Dunedin.)

Palmerston North:

Jamie Bichan
81 Roy St.
Ph: 3561216
or
c/o MUSA
Post Box
Massey University.
Ph: 357-4121
Fax: 354-2756
(Duncan Killiner and Steve
Collett are also contacts for
Palmerston North)

Wellington:

Amy Roundtree
13 Hall St.
Newtown
Ph: 389-7665.
(There is also a Wellington
AYN support group in the
proceeds of being set up.
Contact Amy for details.)

Nelson:

Kate McPherson
23 Wellington St
Ph: 548-9036
(If Kate is not at home ask
her flatemates for details
about AYN)

Christchurch:

Melanie Thomson
39 Holly Rd.
Ph: 355-7975
(If anyone else from Christch-
urch would like to be a con-
tact please get in touch with
the collective in Dunedin and
Melanie in Christchurch)

Dunedin:

Cybele Locke
17 Blacks Rd.
North East Valley
Ph: 473-0684.

(watch out for an article next
AYN) Six referendum ques-
tions have been lodged this
week with the Clerk of the
House in order to reclaim the
idea of a participatory de-
mocracy. The Clerk has
three months to analyse the
wording before the collecting
of signatures begins. If you
would like to be involved
please contact:

**The Next Step
Education House
178-172 Willis St.
Wellington**
Ph: 382-8146.

A Social Development Semi-
nar: 5-6th August 1994.
At: St. Johns Conference
Centre, cnr. Willis and Dixon,
Wellington.
Preparing for the UN World
Summit on Social Develop-
ment to be held in Copenha-
gen in March, 1994.

A last word from the editor:

Thank you for the enormous
amount of response and
energy for AYN after our
meeting at the National
Peace Workshops. This
energy is what makes the
magazine worthwhile!!
Please keep staying in touch
all of you. If your article is
not in this month's magazine,
it will be in next month's as I
ran out of room. Keep ask-
ing the people you know if
they want to subscribe or if
others are interested in being
a contact, tell them to get in
touch. The network can only
keep getting better.

Arohanui
Cybele, Anna and Melanie.

P.S. Melanie Lovell-Smith
creates all the front covers of
AYN. Clever, ah?

What Is Coming Up?

So this column can be
effective and extended, the
Dunedin collective need to
hear from each region
about what events are
coming up or dates that are
important. We are going to
set up a toll call budget for
ringing contacts but it
would good to hear from all

of you before the 20th of
each month!

Budget Day: 30th June.
Always a good day to stage a
protest against our unhappy
government.

The Next Step Democracy
Movement is under way

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$9 UNWAGED
\$18 WAGED
\$25 ORGANISATION
\$50 INSTITUTION.

THIS SUBSCRIPTION IS FOR A WHOLE YEAR.
HOWEVER, IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD THIS
PLEASE SEND US YOUR ADDRESS AND WE
WILL SEND YOU THE MAGAZINE.

Smash the Contracts Act

Defend our Unions

*Aotearoa Youth Network
111 Moray Place
Dunedin*